

Date: Mon, 4 Jan 93 20:06:00 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #16
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Mon, 4 Jan 93 Volume 93 : Issue 16

Today's Topics:

- 1200Mhz is not a microwave band!
- 430 mhz band under th (now private/closed repeaters)
- Converting 49Mhz Toys to 6 meters
- Format of Code Exams? (2 msgs)
- Licensing changes for change of address?
- Need a 3rd hand for Soldering!?
- New Portable Receiver
- QRP radio kits - where to find them?
- Quartz Crystal Sources (cheap)?
- RCA V-TRAC Channel Elements Needed
- RFI susceptibility of new... vcr's
- RFI susceptibility of new cars?
- Who do repeater coordinators represent?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 5 Jan 93 01:15:32 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: 1200Mhz is not a microwave band!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

As I say above: 900 and 1200Mhz are not microwave bands. They are UHF bands.

The VHF/UHF/SHF bands more than ever form a continuum with techniques
slowly changing across the bands. When I started VHF was somewhat
strange, UHF was mysterious ("what these inductors have no turns") and

SHF was just plumbing! This is no longer the case. You can even use plug/socket (SMA) connectors at 10Ghz and above.

The following is generally accepted:

Extra Low Frequency	30Hz to 3kHz	10000km to 1000km
Ultra Low frequency	300Hz to 3kHz	1000km to 100km
Very Low frequency	3kHz to 30kHz	100km to 10km
Low Frequency	30kHz to 300kHz	10000m to 1000m
Medium Frequency	300kHz to 3000kHz	1000m to 100m
High Frequency	3Mhz to 30Mhz	100m to 10m
Very High Frequency	30Mhz to 300Mhz	10m to 1m
Ultra High Frequency	300MHz to 3000Mhz	1m to 10cm
Super High Frequency	3GHz to 30GHz	10cm to 1cm
Extra High Frequency	30GHz to 300GHz	10mm to 1mm
Far Infra-red	300GHz to 3THz	1mm to 100um
Infra-red	3Thz to 30THz	100um to 10um
Near Infra-red	30Thz to 300THz	10um to 1um
Visible/near UV	300Thz to 3000THz	1000nm to 100nm

Checkout the ARRL operating manual for a quick rundown of allocations.

Why the worry about using equipment at 900 and 1200Mhz? Its very little worse than at 440Mhz. All of a sudden you call it "microwaves" (a term like "over and out" from the movies) and it becomes a lot more dangerous! Take the same precautions as you do with your VHF/UHF radios (or even your HF radio): keep the antenna away from your head; don't stand close to a transmitting antenna; by a remote mic for portable use; don't look into a gain antenna when transmitting.

And what about all those people with their cellular phones exposing you, and the police with their 800Mhz radio systems (notice the 3" antenas on the cars roof!).

72/73 Kevin, N7WIM / G8UDP
a-kevinp@microsoft.com

Date: Tue, 5 Jan 1993 03:23:18 GMT
From: nntp.telebit.com!phr@uunet.uu.net
Subject: 430 mhz band under th (now private/closed repeaters)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jan3.160408.5192@ke4zv.uucp> gary@ke4zv.uucp (Gary Coffman) writes:

>In article <PHR.93Jan1224845@napa.telebit.com> phr@telebit.com (Paul Rubin)

writes:

>>

>>I am uncomfortable with the idea of using these bands with portable
>>equipment because of the additional microwave exposure.

>

>Paul brings up a good point. I for one would like to get into 1.2 GHz more,
but

>I am hesitant to use a u-wave transmitter in close proximity. I'm more likely
>to go mobile or base with it. Tolerances at 1.2 GHz are much tighter, making
>homebrew equipment harder to produce and "appliances" more expensive.

Cellular phones use a similar part of the spectrum and there isn't any
hard evidence that they fry yuppie brains. :-)

I don't know about that. Handheld cell phones are (or were)
limited to 600mw power because of fear of fried brains.
(mobile cell phones had up to 3 watts). I think the regs
for handhelds may have changed.

Cell phones haven't been around long enough to watch long
term trends, but there is plenty of evidents of radar operators
getting more cataracts, etc.

Date: 5 Jan 93 01:20:40 GMT
From: eram!dave@midway.uchicago.edu
Subject: Converting 49Mhz Toys to 6 meters
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <Tk1uwB2w164w@pilloock.moron.vware.mn.org>,
stevej@pilloock.moron.vware.mn.org (Steven Jarosh, KA0VYB) writes:

| > No wonder Tandy (RS) have a reputation here for over-priced junk...
|
| Tandy can't take all the blame. Don't forget about Australia's user
| unfriendly Customs Ministry for those of us not associated with the
| Commonwealth.

Perhaps, but that does not detract from the popular view that Tandy (Aus)
sell over-priced junk... I am always amused at their resistors, packed
in individual blister packs, for about 20 cents each...

Evidently the Tandy in Australia is nothing like the Radio Shack in USA.

--

Dave Horsfall (VK2KFU)
dave@esi.COM.AU

VK2KFU @ VK2RWI.NSW.AUS.OC
...munnar!esi.COM.AU!dave

Date: 4 Jan 93 22:36:32 GMT
From: news.columbia.edu!cunib.cc.columbia.edu!hyx1@RUTGERS.EDU
Subject: Format of Code Exams?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Questions that require perfectly spelled answers (such as calls)
should be multiple choice. The rest should be fill in the blank.
Multiple choice allow for a marginal error in copying callsigns
and such (they are sent only ONCE).
Fill-in-the-blanks test comprehension and minimize passing with pure luck.
Just a thot.

Harry Xu | "The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary;
(KB2LHA/AG) | men alone are quite capable of every wickedness." --J. Conrad

Date: Tue, 5 Jan 1993 03:29:33 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!spool.mu.edu!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!news.cs.columbia.edu!
popovich@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Format of Code Exams?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

> Questions that require perfectly spelled answers (such as calls)
> should be multiple choice. The rest should be fill in the blank.

Huh? They ALL require perfectly spelled answers. Misspelling an
answer means that at least one character in the answer was mis-copied,
thus no credit for the question.

> Multiple choice allow for a marginal error in copying callsigns
> and such (they are sent only ONCE).

Most, if not all, code tests seem to follow this basic pattern:

VVV VVV
CQ CQ CQ DE <SENDER> K
<SENDER> DE <RECEIVER> KN
<RECEIVER> DE <SENDER>
<QSO MATERIAL>
AR <RECEIVER> DE <SENDER> SK

Maybe not exactly, but you get the idea. You get four cracks at
copying the sending call, and three at copying the receiving call.
Callsigns are perhaps the ONE item that you would have NO excuse for
not copying properly on a Morse code exam ;-).

> Fill-in-the-blanks test comprehension and minimize passing with pure luck.
> Just a thot.

Yeah, but then again, what's wrong with passing with pure luck? It sure beats failing with pure luck, like you can do by dropping the wrong few characters on a code test (say, one character in each of four words that turn out to be answers to the fill-in-the-blank questions and enough other randomly spaced characters to keep you just below a minute of solid copy). IMHO, code tests are a rather bogus licensing criterion in any case, so I would tend toward leniency within the allowable testing guidelines. As far as I, as a VE, am concerned, as long as the FCC and my VEC allow multiple-guess ;-), tests, why not use them?

-Steve, WB3I

Date: Tue, 5 Jan 1993 03:44:27 GMT
From: brunix!brunix!omh@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Licensing changes for change of address?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I've been licensed for quite some time, but I listen much more than transmit. I've moved recently and I'm wondering if Form 630 is the correct one to let the FCC know about my change of address.

Sorry to ask such a dumb question, but have you tried getting a form 630 from the FCC lately. You go through a voice mail hurdle (at long distance) then they never send the form. They put you through the hassle then ignore you.

Thanks,
_owen

Owen Hartnett omh@cs.brown.edu
"FAITH, n. Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks
 without knowledge, of things without parallel."
 -Ambrose Bierce - The Devil's Dictionary

Date: Mon, 4 Jan 1993 22:25:22 GMT
From: psinntp!news.columbia.edu!cunib.cc.columbia.edu!hyx1@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Need a 3rd hand for Soldering!?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I always feel like my 2 hands are not enough when soldering.

1 hand holds the soldering iron;
1 holds the solder;
another hand is needed to hold the component, or the pliers that hold the
component to prevent over-heating.

Does anyone have a smart solution?

Tnx for the time,
Harry Xu | "The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary;
(KB2LHA/AG) | men alone are quite capable of every wickedness." --J. Conrad

Date: 5 Jan 93 00:21:39 GMT
From: panix!schuster@nyu.arpa
Subject: New Portable Receiver
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <9301042006.AA01758@cmr.ncsl.nist.gov> rc@cmr.ncsl.nist.gov (Robert
Carpenter) writes:

>The December 1992 (boat show) edition of the French yeachting magazine
>"Bateaux" has a picture and writeup on an interesting new Sony radio.
>It is the ICF 55. Like their older all-wave models, it covers from 150 kHz
>to 29.999 MHz, and the FM band from 76 to 108 MHz. There seem to be two
>interesting new features:
> > It is "really" intended for SSB reception.
> > It tunes in 1 kHz steps (not 5 kHz like the older ones).
> > It has a real and substantial rotary knob for continuous tuning.
> > Less importantly, it's dial seems to be a very large gee-whiz
> LCD affair with world map, lots of numbers, etc., etc.
>I have no idea how large it is, but it's clearly not a "baby" unit.
>
>The French price is 3200 F, which is just under \$600. I would expect the
>USA price to be a lot less, maybe about \$395 - since things are just
>cheaper here.

Actually, the Sony ICF-SW55 has been available here in the US almost a
year now. It's curious that it;s being promoted over there as a yachting
radio with the emphasis on SSB.

SSB is probably the weakest aspect of this radio. The BFO exhibits a
drop of pitch on modulation peaks of strong SSB signals ("pulling")
which makes it annoying for all but the most casual SSB listening.

Otherwise it is a superb radio, although some of its human engineering
requires getting used to.

--

-----Mike Schuster-----

NY Pub. Access UNIX/Internet: schuster@panix.com | 70346.1745@CompuServe.COM
The Portal (R) System: schuster@shell.portal.com | MCI Mail, GEnie: MSCHUSTER

Date: 4 Jan 93 23:06:02 GMT
From: news.columbia.edu!cunib.cc.columbia.edu!hyx1@RUTGERS.EDU
Subject: QRP radio kits - where to find them?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The following file is from info@arrl.org filename "qrp-rig".

-----> begin <-----

Subject: QRP Rigs List

I was preparing a list of QRP rigs that were available for
a Intro to QRP class that I am teaching at Pacific Con (Sat at 3:00)
and I thought the net might like this list also. So here it is;

Oak Hills Research
20 and 40 Meters
2 to 3 Watts
\$149.95 Kit
616-796-0920

MFJ
15 to 40 Meters
5 Watts
\$179 Built
800-647-1800

Tejas
17 to 80 Meters
Watts unknown
\$139.00 Kit
Fax 713-840-8608

A&A
20 to 40 Meters
5 Watts
\$159.95 Kit
714-952-2114

Ramsey

Receiver \$29, 20 to 80 meters, Kit
Transmitter \$29, 20 to 80 meters, Kit
1 watt
716-924-4560

CM Howes
40 and 80 meters
Watts Unknown
\$164.95
219-594-3661

I know that I am missing Kanga Kits which has the Sudden Receiver but
this is best I could do on short notice! Hope this helps in some way!

QRP Books - contact djahnke@arrl.org for information about ordering
any League publication.

QRP Notebook by Doug DeMaw W1FB
W1FB's QRP Notebook By Doug DeMaw
Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur
QRP Classics By ARRL
Your QRP Operating Companion By ARRL
W1FB's Design Notebook by Doug DeMaw

See also the ARRL Kits list, available from the info@arrl.org mail server.
Retrieve the kits file.

The members and HQ staff would like to thank the following people for
their contributions to this information file:

Jeff Jones AB6MB

Send any additional information or changes to ehare@arrl.org.

73 from ARRL HQ.

-----> eof <-----

Harry Xu | "The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary;
(KB2LHA/AG) | men alone are quite capable of every wickedness." --J. Conrad

Date: 3 Jan 93 17:54:31 GMT
From: peora!usenet.ccur.com!catfish!ka2qhd!kd2bd@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Quartz Crystal Sources (cheap)?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone have a "favorite" source for quartz crystals?

I need two crystals, 3rd mode, VHF region, in a small holder. JAN wants \$14.00 each, Crystek wants about \$12.50 each.

Before I get "mugged", I was wondering if anyone knew of any place that could do better.

(What ever happened to \$4.00 crystals? Jeesh!)

Please e-mail responses. If they look good, I'll post a follow-up.

Thanks in advance.

73, de John, KD2BD

--

John A. Magliacane	FAX : (908) 747-7107
Engineering & Technology Dept.	AMPR : KD2BD @ NN2Z.NJ.USA.NA
Brookdale Community College	UUCP : ...!rutgers!ka2qhd!kd2bd
Lincroft, NJ 07738 USA	VOICE: (908) 224-2948

Date: Mon, 4 Jan 93 23:35:01 GMT
From: psinntp!dg-rtp!usenet@uunet.uu.net
Subject: RCA V-TRAC Channel Elements Needed
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have a source of RCA radios (V-TRAC I believe) that I need channel elements for. These channel elements seem impossible to find (unlike those for GE Execs). Cash or possibly a swap for RCA or GE radios are possible.

The radios will be put to use as packet stations.

Anyway, if you've got some of those channel elements or have a line as to where I can find them - please let me know.

regards, Mike

Date: Mon, 4 Jan 1993 23:35:38 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!torn!csd.unb.ca!unbham@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: RFI susceptibility of new... vcr's
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I can use my handheld to eject the tape from my vcr....

Just some trivia
Derek

For those who have ever tried IRC - internet relay chat, I have written a little server that offers some goodies like allowing you to lookup people in the amateurs on usenet list, services like the nasanews, aurora watch and a hurricane watch, plus a weather server that allows you to get the weather in your area.

Date: 5 Jan 93 00:30:03 GMT
From: eram!dave@midway.uchicago.edu
Subject: RFI susceptibility of new cars?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jan03.232623.4498@uhura.neoucom.edu>,
wtm@uhura.neoucom.edu (Bill Mayhew) writes:

| The AM/FM receivers have had some
| intermod problems, however. Occasionally, the FM radio in my Mazda
| MX6 gets hammered by police radar units when I pass near a cruiser.
| I get a loud buzz in the speaker as I go by.

So what are you complaining about :-)

--
Dave Horsfall (VK2KFU) VK2KFU @ VK2RWI.NSW.AUS.OC
dave@esi.COM.AU ...munari!esi.COM.AU!dave

Date: Tue, 5 Jan 1993 03:06:29 GMT
From: tcsi.com!iat.holonet.net!bwilkins@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Who do repeater coordinators represent?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

cep4478@ultb.isc.rit.edu (C.E. Piggott) writes:
: In article <1993Jan2.184109.13079@mnemosyne.cs.du.edu> rcanders@nyx.cs.du.edu
(Rod Anderson) writes:
: >It is important to recall that in many areas the repeater frequency
: >coordinators have been appointed by the REPEATER owners.
:
:

: This is the reason I am against having packet channels coordinated
: by the repeater councils - I don't think any coordination should
: operate in this mode.

In our area the local coordinating body does band planning. The packet ssb
atv experimental cw and other special interest groups get together to
coordinate the various uses of spectrum. The ARRL plan is a guide we use,
but the special needs of our region are what make up our band plan. This
plan is voted in place by the membership after much prior discussion.

In this band plan are frequencies for Packet. The local packet
coordinating committee has established the uses for each of these
frequencies. There are BBS , netrom keyboard to keyboard , dx spotting
cluster , tcp/ip , 9600 baud , and backbone frequencies.

Most of their coordination work involves new bbs operators. Most of our
bbs s are full service networked fully forwarding systems with about 100
users. I know of one that has over 300 users. The coordinators make
recommendations as they do not assign frequencies.

When the 220 band plan was changed recently the coordinating bodies were
faced with the fact that in northern california the 222-225 spectrum was
all repeaters. After a series of meetings of both repeater and packet
groups with representatives from weak signal and experimental users, a
plan developed reshape the spectrum. Yes there are fewer repeater
channels. Yes there are more packet frequencies. The weak signal and
experimental users have 150 KHz of spectrum at the lower end of the band.

Because every one came together at coordination council meetings all
existing users of the band had spectrum to do their thing with out
interference. Yes many people had to shift frequencies, but when it was
done, they were proud...it worked.

--

Bob Wilkins n6fri voice 440.250+ 100pl san francisco bay area
bwilkins@holonet.net packet n6fri @ w6pw.#nocal.ca.usa.na

Date: 5 Jan 1993 00:45:43 GMT
From: noc.near.net!transfer.stratus.com!bigbootay.sw.stratus.com!
leadfoot@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <C0A7J9.7tL@NeoSoft.com>, <1ia9j8INN127@transfer.stratus.com>,
<8319@lib.tmc.edu>
Subject : Re: Closed repeaters

In article <8319@lib.tmc.edu>, jmaynard@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu (Jay Maynard) writes:

|> In article <1ia9j8INNl27@transfer.stratus.com>

leadfoot@bigbootay.sw.stratus.com (Mark Curtis) writes:

|> >You want to park your 30k two-seater in one of the lanes of a public road

|> >for your own use 24 hours a day. No one else can use that lane because you

|> >left your car parked in the middle of the street. Maybe a few times a day

|> >you or a friend will use the car, but most of the time it just sits there.

|> >Your car takes up space and blocks the lane from use even when you aren't

|> >using it. Kind of like the "Bob" car ads. "Oh it's you Bob" Great ad,

|> >but not realistic.

|>

|> OK...but let's add some more things to make your analogy even closer: First of

|> all, the highway has hundreds of lanes.

And there are thousands of users/drivers. If you live in any metro area you know that demand for more lanes rises faster than they can be built.

Blocking off PUBLIC property for one group/user's PRIVATE use without compensation to the public is wrong. The enjoyment and use of public property is for everyone. You feel that just because you have spent money on a repeater you now have total control of something you don't own, the PUBLIC resource. In this case a pair of frequencies in a ham band. To what government agency did you pay your yearly usage fee to?

Let me put it to you this way. In your neighborhood there is a public park. You like the park, but you feel that you and few friends would enjoy the park more if you added a BBQ grill. So you use your own money to add a BBQ grill and enjoy it very much. Now a new family moves in and starts using the park. You don't know, care, or like them so you tell them they can't use your grill. The problem is your grill is built on public land, not private land. If you don't want them to use it while you aren't there the only thing you can do is take it with you when you leave. You can't rope off the area around the grill and claim it as your's, you don't own the land the public does.

Maybe you could strike a bargain with the city. You pay \$X a year, which the city uses to help maintain the park, in exchange for exclusive use of the area around your grill. Kind of like FM/AM/TV broadcasters, cell phone, and other private interests pay. They too are using a public resource for private usage, so they pay a usage fee to offset the public's loss.

|> Second, the lane Jim's Porsche is in

|> is one of the most heavily traveled lanes on the highway.

All the more reason not to park your car in the lane blocking it. I don't care how many lanes there are, when they're all needed people have to

share. When there are unused lanes available then it isn't a problem, but when demand is high the rules have to change. No more private use of public property.

|> Third, there are
|> spots on the highway where, if you cross them at exactly 88 miles an hour,
|> you're teleported somewhere you're thinking of, but if your speed is off, you
|> wind up in weird worlds you can never get out of.

You added a hazard to public hiway? As long as we're at it lets add a set of lights and traps for drag racing. :-)

I belong to a private group who four times a year clean up two miles of interstate hiway. Does this mean we get to dictate how and by whom the land is used? No, just because we put time, effort, and money into improving that land doesn't make it our's to control. It is still public property.

Our group is a hobby and we do what we do for fun and the publics good, not to get some kind of private club grounds. Ham radio is the same way. It is a hobby and things are done for fun and public good. If you are doing things to public propey for other reasons your not in ham radio anymore.

|> Fourth, as the highway winds
|> through Texas, there are others on it who Jim shares the lane with peacefully
|> and cooperatively.

And others who have just as much right to be there who aren't welcome.

I'm not saying don't put up a repeater. Just don't get this "I own this pair stay the hell off it" attitude. You don't own anything except your repeater hardware and attitude. If someone you don't like starts using the machine turn it off. Getting an "I own this freq" attitude is wrong and silly. Just turn your repeater off, that is the only thing you do own and control.

Date: 5 Jan 93 00:27:49 GMT
From: eram!dave@midway.uchicago.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Jan02.061145.6961@ssc.com>,
<1993Jan3.010814.7938@elroy.jpl.nasa.gov>, <1993Jan04.041155.17364@ssc.com>
Subject : Wilful interference (was Re: 430mhz band under th)

{ Hardly "430 MHz under threar" any more, is it? }

In article <1993Jan04.041155.17364@ssc.com>,
tad@ssc.com (Tad Cook) writes:

| In article <1993Jan3.010814.7938@elroy.jpl.nasa.gov> laborde@oak.Jpl.Nasa.Gov
(Gregory R. LaBorde) writes:

| >Suppose hams A & B start a QSO on the output of repeater C. If repeater
| >C subsequently starts to operate and interferes with the QSO, which is
| >NOT USING THE REPEATER ITSELF, then it is the repeater (or its users)
| >that are guilty of interference.

|
| Nope! This tactic was tried in LA by jammers in the 1970s...and
| it didn't work. They figured they had found a loophole....since the
| repeater was not transmitting on top of THEM. No one was amused!

Agreed! It's the same in Australia: repeater frequencies are well-known
(they are published, and all are OPEN; also individuals cannot set up
a repeater; only clubs etc can) so if some twits come up on a repeater
output (deliberately or otherwise) it's their problem if the repeater
clobbers them... Basically, a repeater is not required to listen to its
own output before transmitting (unlike Amateur stations).

This tactic was tried by some clown operating on 146.999 MHz (supposedly)
calling "CQ DX" (hah!), when the 147.000 repeater was disabled for a while.
He had no right of complaint when the repeater subsequently re-appeared.

--

Dave Horsfall (VK2KFU)
dave@esi.COM.AU

VK2KFU @ VK2RWI.NSW.AUS.OC
...munari!esi.COM.AU!dave

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #16
